

Remarks

Reconsideration of this Application is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-24 are pending in the application, with claims 1, 8, 13, and 20 being the independent claims. No new matter has been added.

Based on the following remarks, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner reconsider all outstanding rejections and that they be withdrawn.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 103

In section 4 of the Office Action, claims 1-24 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being allegedly unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,901,049 to Chapman (hereinafter "Chapman") in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,032,197 to Birdwell *et al.* (hereinafter "Birdwell"). Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection.

The Office Action concedes that Chapman does not specifically teach transmitting or receiving a delta-encoded value for each non-redundant field in said second protocol header of said subsequent TCP protocol packet, wherein said delta-encoded value represents a change in value from a respective non-redundant field in said first protocol header of said first TCP protocol packet, as set forth in independent claims 1, 8, 13, and 20. Instead, the Examiner relies on Col. 1, lines 26-58, Col. 2, lines 19-32 and 48-56, and Col. 6, lines 1-9 of Birdwell to allegedly teach this feature.

More specifically, in the "Response to Arguments" section of the Office Action, the Examiner alleges:

Birdwell taught in column 5, lines 59-67 and column 6, lines 1-9 to include compression bit value (e.g. delta-encoded value) for each compressed header (e.g. compressed header of the TCP protocol packet having no

redundant field), wherein the compression bit value represents 0 or 1 to indicate whether the packet is full-length or reduced length (e.g. change in value from a respective non-redundant field (sic) in said first protocol header of said first TCP protocol packet) since a reduced length data packet includes a compressed header having no redundant header fields. This reads on the claimed language.

See the present Office Action, page 10.

Thus, it appears that the Examiner is relying on compression bit value 56 to allegedly teach the delta-encoded value recited in Applicants' claims 1, 8, 13, and 20. However, there appears to be some confusion with respect to the meaning of the term "delta-encoded value". A "delta-encoded value" is well known in the relevant art(s) to represent a change in value (i.e., a delta) from a reference value. See, e.g., the present Patent Application, paragraphs [0022] and [0198]. For example, rather than transmitting a first value and a second value, dynamic delta encoding may be used to transmit the first value and a delta-encoded value, which represents the difference (i.e., delta) between the first and second values. In a more illustrative example, rather than transmitting the values 2, 4, 6, 9, and 7, dynamic delta encoding may be used to transmit 2, 2, 2, 3, and -2, which may be represented in greater detail as 2 , $4-2=2$, $6-4=2$, $9-6=3$, and $7-9=-2$. See Wikipedia, Delta-encoding, which may be found at http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Delta_encoding.

Moreover, nothing in Birdwell teaches or even suggests transmitting a compression bit value 56 *for each non-redundant field of a header*, as suggested in the Office Action. To the contrary, Birdwell merely indicates that a compression bit value 56 is appended to each packet to identify whether the packet is a full-length data packet or a reduced-length data packet. "In this example, the compression bit value is a one-bit

compression flag that is a first binary value, such as a '0', when the data packet is full-length and a second binary value, such as a '1', when the data packet is reduced-length." Birdwell, Col. 5, line 66 - Col. 6, line 9. Thus, regardless whether the packet is a full-length data packet or a reduced-length data packet, a single compression bit value 56 is appended to each packet, even though the full-length and reduced length data packets 40, 50 shown in Figures 4 and 5, respectively, are described as having multiple non-redundant header fields (e.g., "the 16-bit packet identification field, the 3-bit flag field, and the 13-bit fragment offset field"). Birdwell, Col. 5, lines 20-65.

For at least the reasons set forth above, Applicants assert that independent claims 1, 8, 13, and 20 are patentable over Chapman and Birdwell, alone or in any rational combination.

Furthermore, claims 2-7, which depend from independent claim 1, claims 9-12, which depend from independent claim 8, claims 14-19, which depend from independent claim 13, and claims 21-24, which depend from independent claim 20, are also patentable over Chapman and Birdwell, alone or in any rational combination, for reasons similar to those set forth above with respect to their independent claims, and further in view of their own respective features.

Therefore, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of claims 1-24.

Information Disclosure Statement

Applicants acknowledge with gratitude the Examiner's consideration of the documents listed on the Form PTO/SB/08A that accompanied the Fourth Supplemental Information Disclosure Statement filed July 25, 2006.

Telephonic Interview

Applicants' representative appreciates the telephonic interview conducted on January 25, 2007, in which Applicants' representative explained the meaning of the term "delta-encoded value", as provided above with respect to the rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 103.

Conclusion

All of the stated grounds of rejection have been properly traversed, accommodated, or rendered moot. Applicants therefore respectfully request that the Examiner reconsider all presently outstanding rejections and that they be withdrawn. Applicants believe that a full and complete reply has been made to the outstanding Office Action and, as such, the present application is in condition for allowance. If the Examiner believes, for any reason, that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the number provided.

Prompt and favorable consideration of this Reply is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

STERNE, KESSLER, GOLDSTEIN & FOX P.L.L.C.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Bryan S. Wade".

Bryan S. Wade
Attorney for Applicants
Registration No. 58,228

Date: 1/29/07

1100 New York Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20005-3934
(202) 371-2600

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